

Letter from the Medical Director Asher Taban, MD

We hope that you are enjoying a happy and healthy 2009. Northridge Hospital Medical Center (NHMC) has started the year off with a bang! We opened our **two new state-of-the-art operating rooms** in January. You will read more about these in this newsletter. We are very proud to be on the forefront of medicine with this addition to our Surgery Department.



*Asher Taban, MD
Medical Director,
Neuroscience
Institute*

Our program continues to grow and meet the needs of our community. The **Neuroscience Institute** provides world-class comprehensive neurological care in a community hospital setting that is easily accessed by the residents of the San Fernando Valley. The Neuroscience Institute is comprised of our **Gamma Knife Center, Sleep Evaluation Center, Center for Spine Care, Stroke Program** and **Hearing and Balance Program**.

We hope that you will find the information in this edition of **Neuroscience Innovations** to be valuable educational materials.

How to Refer

- Physicians wishing to refer a patient to any of the Northridge Hospital Neuroscience Institute programs are encouraged to call **(818) 885-3504**.
- A referring physician is an active partner in the treatment process.
- You are kept informed on your patient's status and all patients are returned to you for further follow-up.
- The Northridge Hospital Neuroscience Institute physician team is available for consultation at any time.

HDTV Comes to Northridge Hospital's ORs – A First in California

Two vastly-spacious 875-square foot operating rooms are now complete at NHMC. The size of these rooms is unique in Southern California and allows us to acquire as much new technologically-advanced equipment as necessary without causing any difficulty in performing complex and demanding surgeries. The large space also allows intraoperative emergencies to be handled much faster and more efficiently.

NHMC is the first facility in California to have the fully integrated high definition EndoSuite® with LED surgical light technology and the next generation of Stryker's Integration Control System Switchpoint Infinity 2.3. The installation of these new surgical suites includes enhanced resolution, brightness and optical clarity that will assist our surgical teams by providing the best visualization possible during minimally-invasive surgical procedures.

The EndoSuite OR is the first ever integrated operating room. Each one features the latest in camera and digital capture technology and includes numerous 26" HDTV monitors. This results in complete flexibility across all surgical specialties by providing both 4:3 and 16:9 aspect ratios.

Flat screen monitors on the walls enable the OR crew to observe the surgery and prepare for the next steps of the procedure immediately. Plus, all the surgical equipment is mounted on the ceilings resulting in more floor space and the removal of trailing wires.

The new ORs also allow access to the NHMC Radiology Department PAC system at any given time, and are constructed and prepared for installation of intra-operative MRI or CT scanners.

What's more, this state-of-the-art technology allows surgeons to perform innovative procedures more effectively and efficiently. That's because the technically-advanced rooms will improve overall patient outcomes by providing more



One of two new state-of-the-art OR suites at Northridge Hospital

precision and quicker surgery, thereby reducing the time a patient is under anesthesia.

The upgrade is touted by hospital and technology officials as it can lead to reduced patient time in the operating room, shorter hospital stays and reduced procedural costs. It will enable NHMC to deliver exceptional results for years to come and help Northridge Hospital's surgeons provide the best in patient care.

**– Asher Taban, MD
Medical Director, Neuroscience**

**– Stephen Farnum, MD
Chair, Anesthesia Division**